

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, ASEAN, E
SUBJECT: US/ASEAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS - DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION

REFS: A. STATE 082203, B. SINGAPORE 1457, C. JAKARTA 3038

1. EMBOFFS CALLED APRIL 3 ON MRS. MANALO TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND MECHANISM FOR SUCH TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS. PLEASE NOTE THAT ASEAN ESCHEWS TERM "FOREIGN ASSISTANCE" IN FAVOR OF "DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION". WE SHOULD USE LATTER TERM NOT ONLY TO CONFORM WITH ASEAN USAGE BUT ALSO TO BE CONSONANT WITH MAGNITUDE OF OUR POTENTIAL PROGRAM.

2. IN DISCUSSING "MECHANISM FOR TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS," EMBOFFS DREW ON DAS HEGINBOTHAM'S REMARKS IN JAKARTA 3038 AND LEFT AIDE MEMOIRE EMBODYING PARAS 2, 3 AND 4 OF STATE 082203. HEGINBOTHAM HAD SUGGESTED IN JAKARTA THAT IT MIGHT BE BETTER FOR ASEAN TO SEND A TEAM TO WASHINGTON TO SEE FULLY
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THE WAYS IN WHICH WE ARE PREPARED TO COOPERATE IN DEVELOPMENT. OUR AIDE MEMOIRE REPEATS THIS SUGGESTION IN HOPES IT "MIGHT SPEED UP THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS AT OUR END."

3. MRS. MANALO THOUGHT JOINT WORKING GROUP SHOULD FIRST MEET IN MANILA. SHE HAS ALREADY PROPOSED TO

ASEAN COLLEAGUES FOLLOWING SCHEDULE: ASEAN EXPERTS MEETING IN MANILA ON MAY 18 TO 20; ASEAN PREPARATORY MEETING MAY 29; AND MEETING IN MANILA WITH U.S. TEAM (JOINT WORKING GROUP) MAY 30 AND 31. THIS IS STILL TENTATIVE, HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH SHE EXPECTS HER ASEAN COLLEAGUES TO AGREE TO THE ABOVE DATES AND HOPES THAT USG WOULD DO LIKEWISE. MRS. MANALO BELIEVED ALSO THAT THE JOINT WORKING GROUP SHOULD MEET AGAIN IN WASHINGTON BEFORE THE MINISTERIAL.

4. MRS. MANALO WELCOMED OUR AIDE MEMOIRE AND SAID THAT GOP WAS CONSIDERING PROJECTS SIMILAR TO THOSE SUGGESTED BY THE USG. ONLY NEW ITEM IS SHIPPING/TRADE WHICH IS STILL IN FORMULATIVE STAGE BUT WOULD LIKELY INCLUDE COOPERATION WITH ASEAN INSTITUTE FOR MARITIME RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT. ON TRAINING, GOP WAS CONSIDERING TEACHER TRAINING ON PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF DRUG ADDICTION.

5. COMMENT: WE NOTE SINGAPORE 1457, WHICH, IN OUR READING, CONVEYS THE MESSAGE THAT USG WAS IN SOME WAY DISSATISFIED WITH THE PHILIPPINE CHANNEL AND ARGUES FOR MORE EXPEDITIOUS WAY TO COMMUNICATE WITH ASEAN. WE DO NOT READ JAKARTA 3038 AND STATE 082203 IN THAT LIGHT, PARTICULARLY AS THEY CONCERN A MECHANISM FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION. IN ANY CASE, ANY CHANNEL -- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS THE GOS KNOWS WELL IN ITS CONSULTATIONS ON THE USMTN/ASEAN MEETING -- IS INEVITABLY TIME-CONSUMING BECAUSE THE ASEAN CONTACT GOVERNMENT MUST COORDINATE WITH THE OTHER FOUR. THAT IS THE NATURE OF THE BEAST, AND IT MAY BEHOOVE US NOT TO HURRY ALONG ASEAN, OR THE EAST.
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